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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Forty-third session
Vienna, 7-16 June 2000

Provisional agenda for the forty-third session

To be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna on Wednesday, 7 June 2000, at 10 a.m.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Statement by the Chairman.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session.
7. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session.
8. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
9. Other matters.
10. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

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II. Annotations*

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Election of officers

In paragraph 9 of its resolution 54/67 of 6 December 1999, the General Assembly took note of the agreement reached by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fortieth session on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the second term starting in 2000, in the context of the implementation of the measures relating to the working methods of those bodies,[1] which had been endorsed by the Assembly in paragraph 11 of its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, and noted that consultations among delegations and regional groups would be held concerning the members of the bureaux for the second term with a view to reaching consensus on the matter by the thirty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. In paragraph 10 of resolution 54/67, the Assembly agreed that the Committee should elect its officers at the beginning of its forty-third session, in accordance with consensus agreement to be reached among the members of the Committee.

3. Statement by the Chairman

Following the adoption of the agenda by the Committee and the organization of work, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Committee that have taken place since its forty-second session. The indicative schedule of work, which will be followed with flexibility, is contained in the annex to the present document.

4. General exchange of views

The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views.

5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

In paragraph 29 of its resolution 54/67, the General Assembly requested the Committee to resume its consideration, at its forty-third session, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session

At its thirty-seventh session, in 2000, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in accordance with paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 54/67, considered the substantive items listed below.

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* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Committee.

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), annex I.

The United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system following the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

In accordance with paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 54/67, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee reconvened the Working Group of the Whole under this item to consider the future work of the Subcommittee in the light of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

The Working Group of the Whole made recommendations concerning the following issues relating to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, as reflected in its report (A/AC.105/736, annex II, paras. 3-37), which was endorsed by the Subcommittee: (a) mechanism to implement the strategy to address global challenges referred to in the Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development; (b) organization, during the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, of a symposium to strengthen the partnership of the Subcommittee with industry; (c) promotion of the participation of youth in space activities and the establishment of a consultative mechanism within the framework of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to facilitate the continued participation of young people in cooperative space-related activities; (d) celebration of World Space Week from 4 to 10 October; (e) Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and new and innovative funding sources to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III; (f) identification and promotion of the use of appropriate space technologies to meet the needs of programmes and organizations of the United Nations system; and (g) strengthening of the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the symposium to be held during the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee to strengthen its partnership with industry, should focus on the emerging applications of global navigation satellite systems in improving the productivity of national and regional infrastructure (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 12). The Working Group of the Whole noted that the Youth Advisory Council, a voluntary body, had been established pursuant to a recommendation of the Space Generation Forum held during UNISPACE III and agreed that the Youth Advisory Council could be granted observer status with the Committee (A/AC.105/736, annex II, paras. 18 and 19). The Working Group of the Whole also recommended that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should develop, in consultation with interested Member States and with the assistance of the Spaceweek International Association, a plan to celebrate World Space Week, for consideration by the Committee at its forty-third session (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 23). The plan will be made available to the Committee during its forty-third session.

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to recommend measures to ensure that the Office for Outer Space Affairs was provided with adequate resources to implement the actions listed in the resolution based on the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The Committee will have before it a document prepared by the Secretariat containing plans of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to implement those actions with indications of their programme budget implications (A/AC.105/L.224).

During the thirty-seventh session of the Subcommittee, the Working Group of the Whole recommended that a colloquium on the theme "The human dimension in space science and technology applications" should be organized during the forty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in 2001, with the participation of eminent scientists, sociologists, philosophers and others (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 45).

The report of the Subcommittee contains a review of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and its activities for 1999 and 2000 and a proposed programme of activities for 2001, which it recommended for approval (A/AC.105/736, paras. 34-51).

The Subcommittee continued to stress the necessity of ensuring the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system. It noted with satisfaction that the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities had held its twentieth session at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 2 to 4 February 2000 and that the report on its deliberations (A/AC.105/727) and the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programme of work for 2000 and 2001 and future years" (A/AC.105/726) were before the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee noted that the next session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities was scheduled to be held in Vienna from 22 to 24 January 2001 (A/AC.105/736, paras. 56 and 57).

Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment

The views expressed on this item at the thirty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/736, paras. 69-74).

Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this item under the work plan it had adopted at its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex III, appendix). The Subcommittee had before it the working papers submitted by the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.1/L.233 and 234), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/AC.105/C.1/L.231) and the United States of America (A/AC.105/C.1/L.229), as well as a note by the Secretariat containing information submitted by Member States in response to paragraph 31 of General Assembly resolution 53/45 of 3 December 1998 (A/AC.105/731).

In accordance with paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 54/67, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. The report of the Working Group was endorsed by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/736, paras. 82 and 83, and annex III). Through the Working Group, the Subcommittee conducted the work for the first year of the work plan and identified terrestrial processes and technical standards that might be relevant to nuclear power sources, including factors distinguishing nuclear power sources in outer space from terrestrial nuclear applications (A/AC.105/736, para. 75).

The Subcommittee noted that the Committee, at its fortieth session, had recalled its agreement that the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, which had been adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992, should remain in their current form until amended and that,

before amendment, proper consideration should be given to the aims and objectives of any proposed revision.[2] The Subcommittee agreed that, at the present time, revision of the Principles was not warranted and that, until a firm scientific and technical consensus had been reached on their revision, it would be inappropriate to pass on the topic to the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/736, para. 79).

International cooperation in human spaceflight

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee began its consideration of this new item as a single issue/item for discussion. The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/736, paras. 85-88).

Presentations on new launch systems and ventures

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee began its consideration of this new item as a single issue/item for discussion. The Subcommittee had before it a working paper by the United States that presented an overview of the International Space Station (A/AC.105/C.1/L.235). The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/736, paras. 90-93).

Space debris

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its consideration, on a priority basis, of this agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. The Subcommittee took note of the replies from Member States submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/45 (A/AC.105/731).

The Subcommittee recalled that, at its forty-second session, the Committee had agreed that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-seventh session, should review international application of International Telecommunication Union standards and Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) recommendations concerning the disposal of satellites in geosynchronous orbit at the end of their useful life. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction the report prepared by the Secretariat in response to the request by the Committee to compile relevant data on space objects in geosynchronous orbit (A/AC.105/734).

The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that, following its invitation, a representative of IADC had made a technical presentation on its work. The Subcommittee agreed that IADC should be invited to make a technical presentation on its work on an annual basis (A/AC.105/736, para. 100).

Regarding its future work on the issue of space debris, the Subcommittee took note of the working papers and conference room papers submitted by the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.1/L.232), the United States (A/AC.105/C.1/L.236), Germany (A/AC.105/C.1/L.238), France, on behalf of Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom (A/AC.105/C.1/L.239), and Japan (A/AC.105/C.1/2000/CRP.11). Having considered a conference room paper submitted by Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States (A/AC.105/C.1/2000/CRP.18), the Subcommittee

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), para. 78.

agreed to continue its work on space debris in 2001, as reflected in the report of the Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 42).

Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its consideration of this agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. The Subcommittee recalled that the Committee, at its forty-first session,[3] had agreed that the principles as reflected in its report were universally accepted by the scientific and technical community and should be applied to future deliberations on the geostationary orbit. The Subcommittee took note of the working paper submitted by the Czech Republic (A/AC.105/C.1/L.230), in which it was stated that an important implication could be drawn from those principles. The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/736, paras. 115-121).

Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Pursuant to paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 54/67, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee requested the Working Group of the Whole (see the second paragraph to the annotation to agenda item 6 above) to consider the future work of the Subcommittee in the light of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

The Working Group of the Whole had before it proposals submitted by Canada, on behalf of Australia, Austria, India, the Russian Federation and the United States (A/AC.105/C.1/2000/CRP.3/Rev.1), China, India and Morocco (A/AC.105/C.1/2000/CRP.7) and Japan (A/AC.105/C.1/2000/CRP.11) for agenda items to be considered under work plans. Proposals for single issues and items for discussion were also made by Egypt, Italy and the United States.

The Working Group of the Whole recommended the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee contained in its report (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 42). With regard to a new item entitled "Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within the United Nations system and among United Nations specialized agencies and bodies", which had been recommended for consideration by the Subcommittee at its session in 2001 under a three-year work plan, the Working Group of the Whole agreed that, at its forty-third session, the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session that it request all United Nations entities concerned to provide the Office for Outer Space Affairs with appropriate information in response to a list of questions that the Office would prepare for approval by the Committee at its forty-third session, with the objective of increasing the effectiveness, efficiency and coordination of the space activities of the agencies and bodies of the United Nations system (A/AC.105/736, annex II,

[3] Ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/53/20), para. 107.

para. 40). The Committee will have before it the list of questions in document A/AC.105/L.223.

The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to organize a symposium on the theme "Terrestrial hazards from outer space objects and phenomena", with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the thirty-seventh session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 44).

Documents:

(a) Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/736);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the celebration of World Space Week (A/AC.105/2000/CRP.3);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the plans of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to implement recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/L.224);

(d) Note by the Secretariat submitting a draft list of questions to be circulated to organizations of the United Nations system (A/AC.105/L.223).

7. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session

At its thirty-ninth session, the Legal Subcommittee considered the substantive items listed below, in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 54/67.

Status of the international treaties governing the uses of outer space

The Legal Subcommittee began its consideration of this new agenda item as a regular item. The Subcommittee had before it the updated information contained in the addendum to *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space: a Commemorative Edition* (A/AC.105/722/Add.1). The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/738, paras. 24 and 25).

Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law

The Legal Subcommittee began its consideration of this new agenda item as a regular item. The Subcommittee had before it two conference room papers (A/AC.105/C.2/2000/CRP.4 and 10), which contained compilations of reports from organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations on their activities relating to space law. The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/738, paras. 32-34).

Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

The Legal Subcommittee, through its Working Group on agenda item 4, entitled "Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union", continued its consideration of this item as a regular item.

On the basis of recommendations made by the Working Group, the Subcommittee reached agreement on the question of the utilization of the geostationary orbit, as reflected in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.221, the text of which is attached to the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/738, annex III).

The Subcommittee agreed that this item should remain as a regular item on its agenda. However, the Working Group on the item would consider only matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and would not consider the issue of equitable access to the geostationary orbit. That arrangement could be re-examined in due course, in accordance with the normal procedure of the Subcommittee, if further developments warranted (A/AC.105/738, para. 108).

The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (see A/AC.105/738, para. [48], and annex [I]). The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/738, paras. 40-43).

Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item as a single issue/item for discussion. The Subcommittee recalled its recommendation, endorsed by the Committee at its forty-second session,[4] and decided not to re-establish its Working Group on agenda item 7, entitled "Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space" (A/AC.105/738, para. 53). The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/738, paras. 55 and 56).

Review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item in accordance with the work plan that it had adopted at its thirty-sixth session. The Subcommittee noted that it should, on the basis of the recommendations of the Working Group on this item, which had been convened at its thirty-eighth session, consider and implement as appropriate the measures considered adequate to achieve the widest and fullest adherence to the treaties relating to outer space.

The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations made by the Working Group in order to achieve the fullest adherence to the five international instruments governing

[4] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), para. 90.

outer space (A/AC.105/738, para. 75). The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/738, paras. 63-74).

Review of the concept of the "launching State"

The Legal Subcommittee began its consideration of this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee[5] and established a working group to consider the item. The first year of the work on this item was allocated to special presentations on new launch systems and ventures.

The Working Group heard presentations by France, Germany, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States. A compilation of those presentations was distributed in a conference room paper (A/AC.105/C.2/2000/CRP.12). For purposes of information, the Working Group also had before it a compilation of the presentations on new launch systems and ventures made during the thirty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.2/2000/CRP.8).

The Working Group recommended that its discussion under the second year of the work plan should include consideration in greater detail of the observations made during the first year of the work plan and that it should hear presentations on the practice of space law, including presentations on national space legislation and other relevant texts. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to prepare a compilation of documents relevant to the agenda item, with the assistance, where necessary, of Member States and international organizations (A/AC.105/738, annex II, para. 15).

The Subcommittee requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper setting out the key elements of existing national space legislation that, in the Secretariat's judgement, illustrated how States were implementing, as appropriate, their responsibilities to authorize and provide continuing supervision of non-governmental entities in outer space (A/AC.105/738, para. 87).

The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/738, para. 89). The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/738, paras. 80-85).

Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fortieth session

The Legal Subcommittee recalled its deliberations at its thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions on new items for its agenda (A/AC.105/738, paras. 94 and 95). At its thirty-ninth session, the Subcommittee had before it additional proposals for new single issues/items for discussion to be included in the agenda of its fortieth session made by Argentina, Australia, Italy, the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.2/L.220) and South Africa. The Subcommittee agreed on the items to be proposed to the Committee for inclusion in the agenda of the fortieth session of the Subcommittee as contained in its report (A/AC.105/738, para. 113). The discussions on the matter are reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/738, paras. 91-111).

[5] Ibid., para. 114.

Document: Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session (A/AC.105/738).

8. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status

In paragraph 30 of its resolution 54/67, the General Assembly requested the Committee to resume its consideration, at its forty-third session, of the item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status".

9. Other matters

The Committee may wish to discuss other matters as appropriate.

10. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

Annex

Schedule of work*

Date	*Agenda item*	*Morning*	*Agenda item*	*Afternoon*
Wednesday, 7 June 2000	1	Adoption of the agenda	4	General exchange of views
	2	Election of officers	5	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes
	3	Statement by the Chairman		
	4	General exchange of views		
Thursday, 8 June 2000	4	General exchange of views	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session
	5	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes		
Friday, 9 June 2000	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session
	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session
Tuesday, 13 June 2000	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session
	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session
Wednesday, 14 June 2000	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session	8	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status
Thursday, 15 June 2000	8	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status	9	Other matters
	9	Other matters		
Friday, 16 June 2000	10	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly	10	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

* At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee agreed that member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20), para. 169 (b)).